

**Base Hospital Contact Required.**

1. Assess airway and initiate basic and/or advanced airway maneuvers prn ([MCG 1302](#))
2. Establish vascular access prn ([MCG 1375](#))
3. Assess for medication exposure as the potential cause of the dystonic reaction ① ②
4. **CONTACT BASE** to confirm Provider Impression of *Dystonic Reaction*
5. **Diphenhydramine 50mg (1mL) slow IV push**  
If unable to obtain venous access, **Diphenhydramine 50mg (1mL) deep IM**  
Repeat in 15 min x1 prn, maximum total dose 100mg

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- ❶ The table below shows common medications that can cause an acute dystonic reaction.

Generic Name	Trade Name	General Use
Prochlorperazine	Compazine	Antiemetic, migraine headache
Hydroxyzine	Vistaril, Atarax	Antiemetic, antipruritic
Promethazine	Phenergan	Antiemetic, antipsychotic
Haloperidol	Haldol	Antipsychotic, Tourette's syndrome
Thioridazine	Mellaril	Antipsychotic
Alprazolam	Xanax	Antianxiety
Metoclopramide	Reglan	Antiemetic
Droperidol	Inapsine	Antiemetic, antipsychotic
Fluphenazine	Prolixin	Neuralgia, antipsychotic

- ❷ Signs and symptoms of a dystonic reaction include anxiety, agitation and associated involuntary muscle spasms of the head, neck, face, eyes or trunk. This often results in an inability to retract the tongue into the mouth, forced jaw opening, facial grimacing, and/or eye deviation.